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helps the student to appreciate the qualities of great literature. A greater number of selections from the Greek authors, whether in the original or in translation, would perhaps have been more useful. In the treatment of the Homeric poems the views of scholars from Wolf to Lang occupy so much space that the reader almost forgets the poems themselves, and, in general, the discussion of modern theories constitutes rather too large a part of the book.

The favorable estimate of the poetry of Archilochus, which is interwoven with the lively account of his life and works, is the traditional one handed down from antiquity, and is less completely justified by the extant fragments than one might wish. On the other hand, Mrs. Wright hardly does justice to the poetry of Bacchylides. The treatment of Menander is excellent, though unfortunately the most important fragments of his comedies were discovered too late to be utilized in this book.

Lack of space forbids discussion of further details, but enough has been said to indicate the character of this excellent manual.

HAROLD N. FOWLER

Ausgewählte Tragödien des Euripides. Für den Schulgebrauch erklärt von N. WECKLEIN. Sechstes Bändchen: *Elektra*; siebentes Bändchen: *Orestes*. Leipzig: Teubner, 1906. Pp. 96 and 109. M. 1.40 and M. 1.60.

College teachers in this country will welcome the addition to the well-known series of selected plays of Euripides, edited by the veteran Euripidean scholar Wecklein, of the *Electra* and the *Orestes*.¹ No more interesting examples could be chosen, as collateral reading for a course in Aeschylus' *Choephoroe* and *Eumenides* and Sophocles' *Electra*, for the illustration of the freedom with which Euripides treated the legendary material, for the comparative study of the dramatic technique of the three great poets, or for the consideration of the changing taste of the Athenians in matters tragic, than these two plays; and for this reason, doubtless, they have been included by Wecklein in this series as they were by Weil in his *Sept tragédies d'Euripide*. They both deserve to be read much more widely than they are in this country. The general characteristics of Wecklein's annotated editions of the plays of Euripides are too familiar to readers of this journal to be expatiated upon here. In the Introduction to the *Electra* the usual date 413 (or 414) is accepted as most probable in view of the historical allusions; Sophocles' *Electra* is thought to have been brought out only a few years before; and Euripides' treatment of the myth is compared with that of his predecessors. The

¹The five preceding volumes of the series are: *Medea* (3d ed.), *Phoenissae*, *Iphigeneia in Tauris* (3d ed.), *Bacchae* (2d ed.), and *Hippolytus*.

discussion of the last-named topic serves equally well as an introduction of the *Orestes*. In his Introduction to the latter Wecklein shows how the poet uses the framework of the traditional material for the construction of an entirely original plot; he protests, but with the lack of conviction of an *advocatus diaboli*, against the adverse criticisms of Aristotle and of modern scholars; and finally he shows how the popularity of the play in antiquity led to numerous corruptions of the text by actors.

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Lysias, Selected Speeches. Edited with introduction, notes, and appendices by CHARLES DARWIN ADAMS. New York: American Book Co., 1905. Pp. 400. \$1.50.

Of the five or six current editions of Lysias in English this is in appearance the most attractive and in content the most encyclopedic; there are, in fact, about seven pages of commentary, of one sort and another, to one page of Lysias. No book in this excellent series shows greater thoroughness or accuracy. Many of the notes are models of terse expression, especially on points of syntax and the use of particles. The first section of the introduction, on the life of Lysias, is a good example of the careful sifting of evidence; perhaps it lacks a little in the literary quality of interest, marked in Morgan's little essay on the same topic, but it is to the student a model of scholarly care. Much attention is paid to the technical side of Greek oratory in general, and especially to the style of Lysias, through analyses and comments prefixed to each of the eight orations selected. But should not even freshmen, for whom the book is professedly designed, do this analysis for themselves, however imperfectly? This matter, and some other material which the student should look out for himself in histories and handbooks, might have been spared had the editor, following the hint in his preface, brought out the bearing of Lysias' "plain style" on modern public speaking.

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The Rôle of the ΜΑΓΕΙΡΟΙ in the Life of the Ancient Greeks as Depicted in Greek Literature and Inscriptions. By EDWIN MOORE RANKIN. Harvard Dissertation. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1907. Pp. vi + 92. \$0.75.

This dissertation is a detailed study of the *μάγειροι*, based upon a large collection of passages that have been gathered from the literature and inscriptions, but chiefly from the fragments, preserved by Athenaeus, from Middle and New Comedy. Dr. Rankin felt that the importance of